

THE MARCH OF WAR

AMERICAN CASUALTIES

About a year ago, official United States war casualty lists began to appear in local newspapers. These lists were published by the US authorities, at first rather irregularly but during the last few months at regular intervals. We have compiled a chart on the basis of these lists showing (I) total casualties, (II) the Army casualties, and (III) the losses suffered by the Navy, including marines and coast guards. (The Army losses include some 12,500 Filipino Scouts.) We have entered the casualty figures under the dates of dispatch by the news agencies; in the beginning they represented the losses sustained up to a time about ten days to a fortnight prior to the date when the report was called. In recent months, however, the figures have included losses up to the date on which they were published.

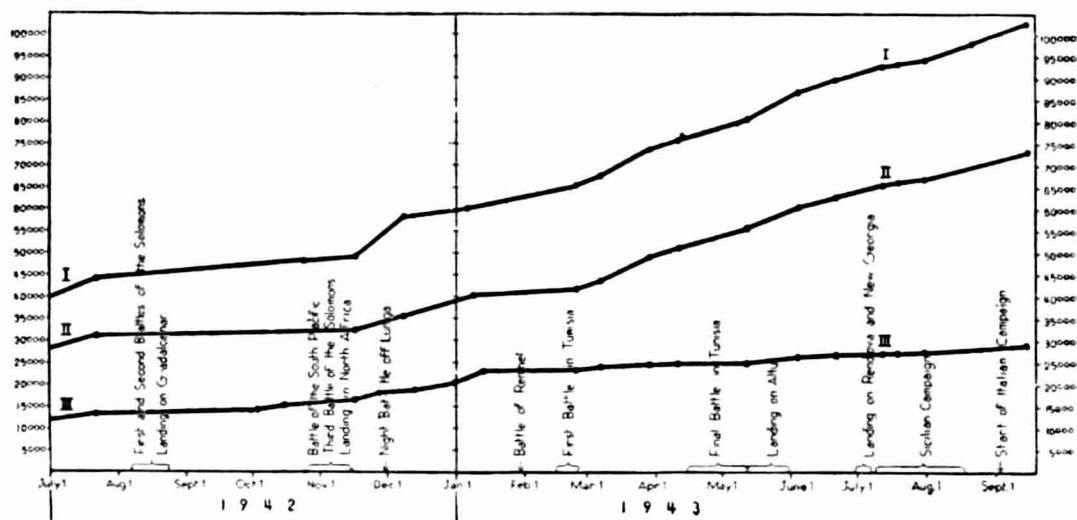
The figure of September 14, 1943, is composed as follows:

Dead	19,721
Wounded	26,765
Missing	32,154
Prisoners	23,933
Total	102,573

A glance at the three curves shows one suspicious fact: with a single exception the curves rise so steadily that they appear as straight lines rather than curves. If the figures announced by the American authorities corresponded to the actual losses, the curves would show steep rises in periods of heavy fighting and flat stretches during calmer times. We have marked on the chart the main battles on land and sea. With the sole exception of the period in November 1942, these battles are not reflected in the curves: the mighty sea battles in the South Pacific can be traced just as little as the change between lull and active fighting in Tunisia and the battle of Sicily.

One might almost think from these curves that the US Office of War Information had received orders to add an average of 1,100 casualties a week, without regard to the actual losses.

There is another factor which deserves attention. Time and again the United States Government has either issued false



American casualties, as reported by the Office of War Information in Washington.
(I) total casualties (II) Army casualties (III) Navy casualties.

statements concerning losses or delayed the publication of the actual losses for many months. The most striking example is Pearl Harbor.

PEARL HARBOR LOSSES

<i>Published at first</i>	<i>Admitted on December 6, 1942</i>
sunk: 2 battleships	sunk: 5 battleships
1 target vessel	1 large floating dock
3 destroyers	3 destroyers
2 small tankers	2 auxiliary units
damaged: several units	damaged: 3 battleships
	3 cruisers
	2 auxiliary vessels

Here are some instances of delayed admission:

<i>Vessel</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Admitted</i>
Aircraft carriers		
<i>Yorktown</i>	June 10, 1942	Sept. 17, 1942
<i>Wasp</i>	Sept. 15, 1942	Oct. 26, 1942
<i>Hornet</i> and 10 other warships	Oct. 26 to Nov. 30, 1942	Jan. 11, 1943
Destroyer <i>Duncan</i>	Oct. 12, 1942	Nov. 28, 1942

Another case of this kind is that of the aircraft carrier *Langley*. Japanese naval headquarters had reported it sunk on January 8, 1942. Washington never admitted the loss; but on November 21, 1942, a report came from America that the keel had been laid for a new aircraft carrier to be named *Langley*. This, of course, was tantamount to an indirect admission to the loss of the original *Langley*.

All these false statements and delayed admissions throw a somewhat unfavorable light on the reliability of the American casualty lists, particularly in view of the fact that these lists have never been retroactively altered when losses were belatedly admitted.

However, the strongest argument against the reliability of the US casualty lists was furnished this summer. The figure published up to July 4 was 91,644; that up to August 20, 98,024. This would mean that the total casualties of all the US armed

forces on all battlefields had, in these seven weeks, amounted to 6,380.

During this period there was the Sicilian campaign (July 9 to August 17) which, according to President Roosevelt's own words in his message to Congress of September 17, cost the Americans 7,545 casualties. In the same period, many terror raids were made on European cities by American air fleets, in the course of which hundreds of US planes, many of them multiengineed bombers, were destroyed with their crews being either captured or killed. And finally, during these seven weeks very heavy fighting occurred in the Solomon Islands, beginning with the American landing on Rendova on June 30 and lasting all through July and August. Imperial Japanese Headquarters announced on August 25 that American casualties on New Georgia Island alone—not counting losses at sea or those suffered from illness—were estimated at about 10,000.

If we consider that the Sicilian campaign alone, even according to American figures, surpassed by more than 1,000 the total casualties admitted for this period; and if we add to this the casualties suffered in air raids on Europe and in the land, sea, and air fighting in the Solomons, we see that the actual figure of casualties must be many times that admitted by the Office of War Information. And we have no cause to regard USA figures published for other periods of this war as being any more reliable.

The reason for withholding the truth from the American people is not far to seek. Roosevelt, who is aware of his responsibility for involving the American nation in war, wishes to create the impression that the war is being fought at a small cost, in order to prevent the Americans from losing whatever war spirit they may have had in the beginning.